

Afghanistan orders national elections

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed Afghan government Saturday ordered national elections next month, but rebels fighting the government declared the move a trick. Voting for the two-chamber national assembly will take place from April 6 to 15, Kabul Radio reported. It said 229 seats of the Council of Representatives (lower house) and 62 seats of the Council of Elders (upper house) would be at stake. But a spokesman for an Afghan rebel party said the Kabul government was not legitimate and had no right to self-elect. Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted a decree issued by President Najibullah as saying "parliamentary seats would be kept vacant for the rebels if they did not contest them now." Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections were held in 1960 under King Zahir Shah and the second in the 1970s by President Mohammad Daoud, who deposed the king in 1973 but was himself toppled and killed in a coup in 1978. The elections were announced as U.N.-mediated Afghan peace talks in Geneva remained stalled over the question of Soviet military support to the Kabul government and who will govern Afghanistan after Soviet troops leave the country.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Riyadh says it has non-nuclear missiles

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia confirmed Saturday it had bought Chinese medium-range missiles but denied they could carry nuclear warheads. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official source as saying the kingdom acquired the CSS-2-class surface-to-surface missiles to meet its arms needs and defend holy sites amid an unstable Middle East situation. "However, reports published in some newspapers that these missiles have nuclear capability are not compatible with the truth and the kingdom categorically denies them," the source said. The Washington Post said Friday that China is selling Saudi Arabia missiles that could carry a nuclear warhead to any part of the Middle East. The U.S. State Department said the report was correct (see page 5). But the SPA said: "The kingdom's firm policy is to save the Middle East the dangers of the nuclear arms race and remain a nuclear-free zone. Saudi Arabia does not consider any plan aimed to increase its defence capability and safeguard its legitimate interests as likely to threaten peace... it is likely that this may help bring about stability in the region."

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King sends good wishes to Ibn Ali

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ibn Ali on the occasion of his country's National Day. The King wished the Tunisian president continuing good health and success in serving his people and country.

King condoles Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent condolences to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the death of his elder brother Mustafa, the Jordan News Agency (Petra) reported Saturday. The message to Arafat was sent through Jordan's embassy in Cairo, where the PLO leader attended his brother's funeral Friday. Petra said, Mustafa Arafat died of cancer.

Fayez praises Soviet decision

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez Saturday met with a delegation from the Soviet Journalists Federation. Fayez praised the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and said that this would contribute to peace in the region.

Abu Ghazala heads for U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — Defence Minister Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazala flew to Washington Saturday for a 10-day visit to discuss Egypt's arms requirements under an nine-year-old aid programme. President Hosni Mubarak said in a recent newspaper interview that Abu Ghazala's visit will focus on "our military needs."

IRA kills 2

British soldiers

BELFAST (R) — Two British soldiers in plain clothes were seized and shot dead by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) Saturday after their civilian car was trapped in the midst of an IRA funeral cortège in Roman Catholic west Belfast. Army sources said the men were on duty but had not been assigned to watch the funeral and appeared to have blundered into the procession by error. The soldiers were captured during the funeral of IRA member Kevin Brady, who was one of three men killed by a Protestant extremist in a gun and grenade attack at Milltown cemetery Wednesday. Brady had been among 10,000 mourners at the burial of three members of an IRA bomb squad killed in a British army ambush in Gibraltar this month.

Gonzalez: Noriega may come to Spain

HUELVA, Spain (R) — Panama's military ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega may be allowed to come to Spain if he relinquishes power. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said Saturday. Asked by reporters if Spain would grant asylum to Noriega, Gonzalez replied: "There is a possibility if the political problems in Panama are settled." In Washington, U.S. television reported Friday that Noriega had agreed to most parts of a deal under which he would leave the country for France or Spain (see page 8).

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Officials draft OIC agenda

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Preparations began in earnest Saturday for the 17th conference of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers which opens here Monday.

Representatives of 45 Islamic countries were finalising the agenda for the foreign ministers in a closed meeting at the Regency Palace hotel. A spokesman for the Jeddah-based OIC General Secretariat would only say that a recommendation was adopted naming the Amman conference "the session of Islamic solidarity

with the uprising of the Palestinian people," in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The spokesman said the agenda, expected to be finalised later Saturday, would only be made public after approval by the foreign ministers.

However, it was expected that the 14-week-old Palestinian up-

rising, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Afghanistan and prospects for peace in the war-torn country would be among the top items on the agenda.

Saturday's meetings were held at under-secretary level and were chaired by Jordanian Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nimer Nimer, who took over from Dr. Ahmad Ramzi of Morocco who presided over the last OIC meeting at similar level.

In an opening speech, Nimer highlighted the significance of the Palestinian uprising and voiced Islamic countries' concern over the developments in the occupied territories.

Nimer welcomed the delegations and hailed on their behalf the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and assured the people under occupation of the Islamic World's solidarity and total support for the uprising and the Palestinians' right to self-determination and return to their homeland.

Following Nimer's speech, an executive committee was elected for the meeting. The committee,

(Continued on page 5)

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Barakat's lens captures nature's wonders

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of recent works by a Jordanian photographer, the first of its kind in Washington, D.C., opened Wednesday, March 16, at the Arts Club of Washington. Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Mohammad Kamal, opened the exhibition.

Jan Barakat, who began her studies in photography in 1984, put on show more than 30 pieces that combine a highly skilled photographic technique with creative impulse to express the multifaceted beauty of the floral world.

Barakat treats the flower as the subject of a formal portrait, either in profile or full-face, but always with studied focus on its poised, expansive elegance. At other times, to reveal more than the eye can see, she frees her vision to penetrate the underlying structure of the flower, to reach the delicate lines of life that lie beneath its perched costume of colour.

It is in these compositions, where the seductive symmetry of nature is made to fold and unfold with pulsating rhythm, that the photographer succeeds in dominating the camera to become the artist.

On this level, Barakat possesses an aesthetic temperament no less spiritually sensual than that of the American painter, Georgia O'Keeffe.

According to photography critic Carter Clews, to Barakat, the flower is not an object; it is a subject. If "a rose is a rose is a rose," it is, in this artist's eye far more than just a rose, it is the living embodiment of a thousand



fleeting feelings: A wink, a smile, a touch, a tear. It is in the artist's words, "a reflection of one's own journey, of one's shared and singular life experiences."

Clews added that to Barakat, "it is the unique ability of the camera lens to isolate and accentuate the smallest detail of the floral subject, which lends the photograph such a symbolic impact. At times, in fact, the visual impact is even greater than the subject in nature could hope to convey."

Barakat explains, "what you can see through the lens is often totally different from what you

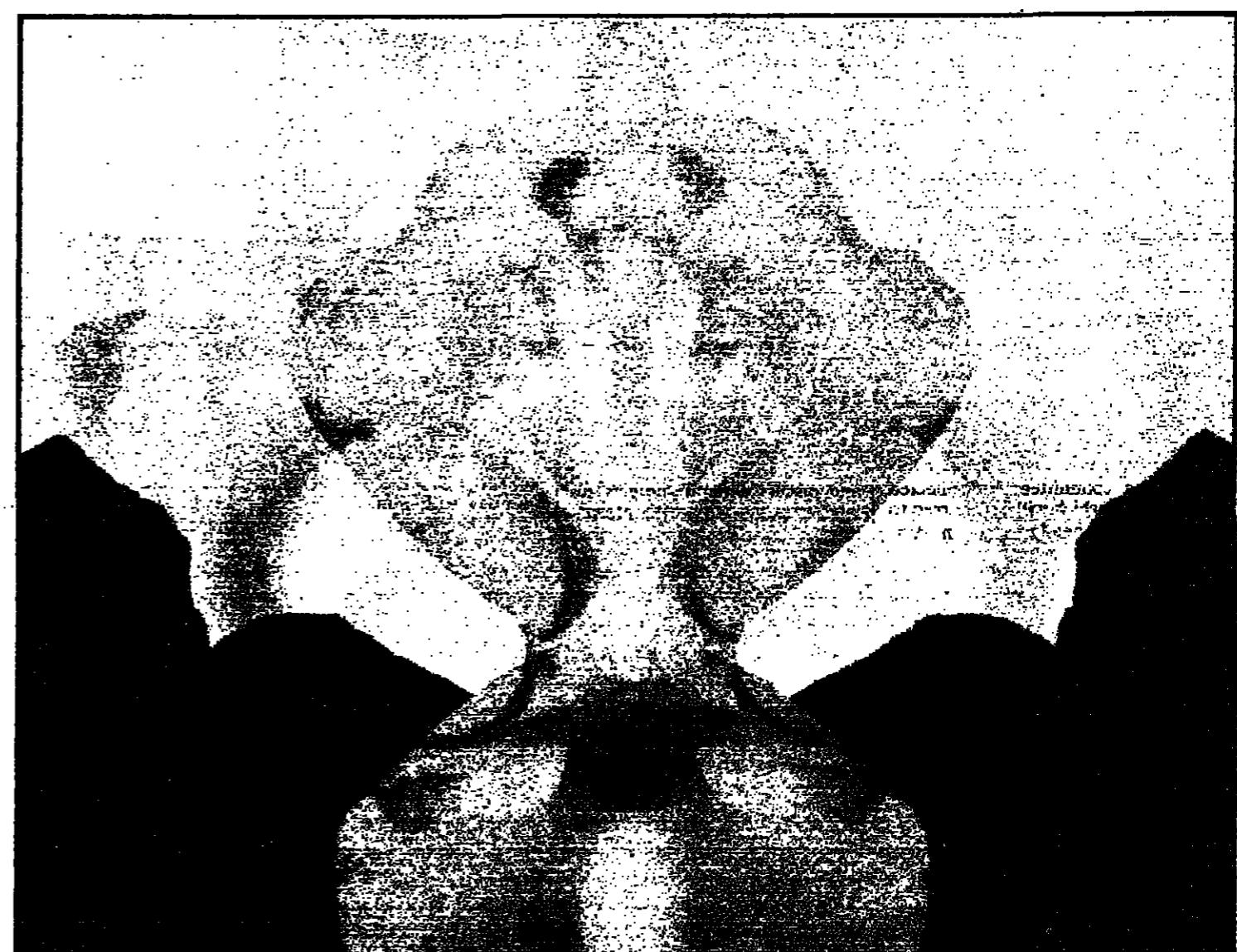
can see with your eyes. The lens takes away all of the extraneous elements — from the flower's environment and your own. It draws you into the core, to the heart. It immerses you. It isolates to the essence."

According to Clews, "regardless of the photographic technique, whether it involves creating a blended background or 'isolating to the essence,' one fact remains certain: This is a photographer whose careful attention to detail openly affirms her love affair with the flower; one who understands and appreciates the

enduring symbolism of all that is a single blossom."

Jan Barakat, began participating in group exhibitions. She received immediate recognition and was awarded the first prize in Real Show organised by the Arts Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington, as well as an award of excellence from Photographers Forum Magazine.

Barakat was born in Amman, and has been living in the Washington area since 1978. She is married to Dr. Akram Barakat, the director of Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, D.C.



TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:58 Programme Review
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Children's programme
17:30 Isaura
18:10 Soccer
18:30 Local agricultural programme
19:00 Programme review
19:10 A special programme about
 Islamic culture
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme on Arabic
22:30 T.V. Magazine (local)
23:00 News Summary
23:10 T.V. Magazine contd.

PROGRAMME TWO
14:30 Rue Carnot
14:30 L'Ecole des Fades
14:30 News in French
14:30 International Circus Festival
14:30 News in Hebrew
14:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A special programme
21:10 Costeau Adventure (documentary)
22:00 News in English
22:20 Secret Army

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz FM
& partly on 9500 KHz, SW

Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
11:30 In Concert
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Pop Talk
13:00 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Instrumentals
15:00 Science Report
15:30 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:45 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:45 Rhythms and Blues
19:00 Newsdesk
20:00 Date with a Star
20:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:45 Evening Show continued
22:00 News Summary

22:00 Evening Show continued
22:00 News Summary
22:00 Close Down
24:00

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Capriccio 06:45
Reflections 06:50 Financial Review
07:00 World News 07:00 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 07:30 Chain
Report 07:45 Letter from America
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the
Thinking 09:00 World News 09:00 9
Hours: News Summary 09:30 From Our
Own Correspondent 09:45 Book
Choice 09:50 Waggoner 10:00 World
Choice 10:00 Reflections 10:15 Plea-
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News Summary: Short Story 12:15
Science Report 12:30 World News 12:45
Regional Service 13:00 World News 12:50
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Crown Prince marks 41st birthday today

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued approving new amended laws on antiquities, higher education and the Agricultural Credit Corporation. The new laws will go into effect as of March 17, 1988. Another decree has approved new measure pertaining to the Water Authority which organizes the authority's activities and linking it with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

SPORTS PROGRAMME: Minister of Youth Awad Kheifet will attend a sports programme which is being organised by Yarmouk University on Monday on the anniversary of the Karameh Battle.

CHARITY BAZAAR: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairman of the board of trustees of Queen Aida Social Welfare Fund, Saturday opened a charity bazaar held at the Social Development Centre in Hiz Nazzal in Amman. Princess Basma toured the various sections of the 10-day bazaar whose proceeds will go to the centre's activities.

FRESH MEAT: Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh Saturday opened a centre for sale of fresh meat at Am Ghazal, adjoining the municipality's slaughter house. The centre will be mostly useful for the residents of Marka district, east of Amman.

TALKS IN SYRIA: Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis met in Damascus Saturday with the speaker of the Syrian People's Council Abdul Qader Qaddoura and discussed current Arab affairs and Jordanian-Syrian parliamentary cooperation.

CULTURAL SEASON: The Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) this week embarks on a cultural season at the University of Jordan with noted intellectuals and men of literature from Jordan and abroad giving lectures on different literary themes.

\$2M FOR UPRISING: Libyan universities have raised \$2 million as a contribution to support the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab land. Association of Arab Universities (AAU) President Mohammad Dugheim announced Saturday. He said that he received a cable from Tripoli stating that a Libyan fund raising committee has collected \$2 million which will be referred to the AAU headquarters in Amman for the benefit of Palestinian students.

TIRES WITH EGYPT: Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Al Tabbaa Saturday reviewed with Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbe the bilateral relations in the fields of trade and industry.

HIGHER EDUCATION: Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad Saturday met with Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) Dr. Abdul Hadi Butaleb, and discussed with him boosting Jordan's relations with the organisation as well as the organisation's projects and programmes concerning scientific researches and higher education.

ART EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, the president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, will open an art exhibition by Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo Wednesday at the Spanish Culture Centre in Jabal Amman.

CLEANLINESS: Zarqa Municipality Saturday began a six-day cleanliness campaign in two of its districts in cooperation with charitable societies and women's unions.

DOCUMENTATION: U.N. University documentation officer Dr. Keith Harry arrived here Saturday at the invitation of the Amman-based Al Quds Open University (OOU) during which he will give lectures to the university staff in documentation, archives and information fields.

TOURIST HORSES: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia will open the new clinic for tourist horses at Petra on Wednesday March 30. The clinic has been established by the London-based Brooke Hospital for Animals to provide medical treatment for these tourist horses.

POETRY FESTIVAL: A prominent Jordanian literary figure will take part in Asia Poetry Festival (Kavita Asia) which will open in Bhopal, India, on March 20. The 5-day festival includes discussions on two themes namely "Poetry as Freedom" and "Poetry and Asian Identity." The event is sponsored by the government of India and Bharat Bhawan.

MEDICAL EXAM: Some 270 doctors from the East and West Banks of Jordan will sit for the medical board examination which will be held simultaneously in Amman and Jerusalem on March 23 and 24, according to Secretary General of the Jordan Medical Council (JMC) Dr. Hani Oweis.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Red Crescent societies to open talks Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab meeting grouping representatives of Red Crescent and Red Cross societies will open in Amman Sunday, to discuss matters related to their societies' activities and cooperation in implementation of humanitarian programmes.

Delegates to the two-day meeting representing Egypt, Mauritania and Libya arrived in Amman Saturday and were greeted by Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRC) officials.

According to these officials, the delegates will discuss assistance to be extended to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, especially in light of the current uprising there. They will also review the implementation of earlier meetings held in Qatar in March 1987 and discuss general subjects related to cooperation with international Red Crescent and Red Cross societies.

Khasawneh inaugurates Palestine Week

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh inaugurated the Palestine Week held at the Qadisieh College in Amman, and wrote a note in the visitors register book underlining the national unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian people on both banks of Jordan.

"Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is keen to preserve this national unity, which serves as a fundamental guarantee for any national effort towards supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Israeli occupied Arab territories, and help them to confront the Israeli oppression," Khasawneh noted.

"Jordan is eager to pursue relentless efforts to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, whose problem remains the main problem for Jordan," he said.

New driving licence forms to be issued

AMMAN — The Drivers and Vehicles Licence Department will start issuing new driving licence forms in the coming few days. Director Mahmud Abu Hammour was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying.

He said that the new form will be more practical and can show the different traffic violations committed by the drivers.

The new form of licence which will appear in Arabic and English is expected to be easier to renew and will save time and effort, Abu Hammour said.

The paper quoted him also as saying that licences of taxis, used to transport passengers on routes outside the main cities, will not be renewed if they are 15 years old or more at present.

Abu Hammour said the department has been issuing new licences for drivers and vehicles through ten security centres in Amman and other cities to ease the congestion and the pressure at the central department in Marka.

Princess Basma to open Red Crescent Society HQ

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma will open a new headquarters of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRC) for men Thursday, which is designed to recruit young Jordanians to carry out humanitarian activity.

JNRC Vice-President Mohammad Hadid said the recruited men will carry out rescue and first aid operations to the victims of natural disasters, and will learn about the basic elements of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work around the world.

Ozal discusses cooperation with Jordanian ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — Turkish Minister of State for Planning, Finance and Foreign Trade Yousef Ozal met in Amman Saturday with Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan for a review of Turkish-Jordanian trade and economic relations.

The two sides discussed Jordan's phosphate exports to Turkey, which this year will reach 800,000 tonnes, and touched on the prospect of setting up a joint Turkish-Jordanian plant for processing phosphoric acid employing Jordanian phosphate.

The two ministers also discussed cooperation among countries in the Middle East region in projects of common benefit, according to a Ministry of Planning official.

He said that Ozal briefed Kanaan on Turkey's experiment in transferring the ownership of organisations from the public to the private sector, and said that Turkey was ready to open new avenues in economic cooperation with Jordan.

The two ministers reviewed the adverse effects of the Gulf war on the economic situation in the region and stressed their countries' support for all efforts to end the conflict.

Later Ozal met with Minister of Industry and Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, and discussed with him financial planning and matters of foreign trade between Turkey and Jordan.

Tabbaa stressed the need for adjusting the balance of trade on both banks of Jordan.

"Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is keen to preserve this national unity, which serves as a fundamental guarantee for any national effort towards supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Israeli occupied Arab territories, and help them to confront the Israeli oppression," Khasawneh noted.

"Jordan is eager to pursue relentless efforts to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, whose problem remains the main problem for Jordan," he said.

Committee discusses Jubilee School project

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — A three-member ministerial committee, set up by the government to discuss the implementation of the Jubilee School, held a meeting at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Saturday and heard a briefing on steps taken for the implementation of the project.

The committee, which groups the ministers of education, planning and labour and social development, discussed proposals submitted for the project and decided on practical steps for coordination among parties involved in the construction of the school.

In January, the NHF distributed awards to three engineering firms for their designs of the

diseases at periodic terms during the year, to work out a wide scale programme for combating contagious diseases, to train veterinarians on modern trends of wiping out animal diseases and to provide new equipment and other requirements for enabling the department carry out this mission.

Asali said the department has set up 12 centres around the country for conducting tests on animals in specialised laboratories.

The school will provide outstanding students from Jordan and other Arab countries with the highest quality education.

As a laboratory school, it will contribute to the development of education throughout the region, according to an NHF official. NHF Director General In'am Al Mufti was among those attending the meeting.

Ministry of Agriculture seeks to eradicate animal diseases

AMMAN — The Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Health Department is currently carrying out a project, in cooperation with West Germany, for eradicating animal diseases and increasing Jordan's livestock wealth, according to the department's director, Ghadoud Asali.

He said the project, which was initiated in 1986, aims to find different types of animal diseases through continual testing of samples taken from them, to deal with

Ministry says risk is 'inevitable, but tolerable'

Jordan Times survey confirms circulation of some undated drugs

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health has said it is ready to look into any complaint of drugs suspected to be expired, but that it had no mechanism to check all drugs without manufacturing and expiry dates and that it could not guarantee that unlabelled drugs were still valid and safe for consumers.

Despite calls by drug quality control experts and pharmacists for the withdrawal of all unlabelled medicines in the market, the ministry says the unlabelled drugs will remain in circulation through Nov. 21, 1988.

The Ministry of Health, following British regulations, had sanctioned the sale of unmarked medicine for five years, ending Nov. 21, 1988, regardless of the manufacturing date of the drug.

Experts examined by the Jordan Times have shown that some unlabelled medicines bought by drug agents in 1980, 1981 and 1982 are still in circulation.

The Ministry of Health, following British regulations, had sanctioned the sale of unmarked medicine for five years, ending Nov. 21, 1988, regardless of the manufacturing date of the drug.

Health Minister Zain Hamzeh said similar regulations were being followed by other countries, including the United States.

"It is impossible to check every medicine," Hamzeh told the Jordan Times.

Admitting that there may be a risk involved in the sale of unlabelled medicine, he said that in this case, "risk is inevitable, but tolerable."

Asked whether he can guarantee that unlabelled drugs in the market were not expired, Hamzeh said: "You cannot, because there is no way to guarantee anything unless you go and test every medicine."

Smuggling of drugs

A well-placed drug expert said there was incontrovertible evidence that some of the medicines being sold in Jordan without manufacturing and expiry dates were already expired, and may, in some cases, constitute a threat to consumers' health.

The expert, who showed the Jordan Times evidence that some undated medicine in circulation was manufactured as far back as 1975, said some such medicines could be dangerous, and should be immediately withdrawn from circulation and destroyed.

The Ministry of Health insists that no unmarked medicine has been allowed into the country after Nov. 21, 1988, though the Jordan Times has examined documents showing some unlabelled medicine that was imported as late as 1987.

Pharmacists said it was difficult to carry out tests on unlabelled medicines. "It is much easier just to withdraw them and get rid of them," one pharmacist said.

"This is the only way to guarantee the safety of consumers," he said that it has already been practically established that several drugs in the market are expired.

A Jordan Times survey has identified at least 26 brands of imported medicines that do not carry manufacturing or expiry dates. Some of these drugs were believed to have been imported after 1983 despite the ministry's ban.

A drug quality control expert working at a Jordanian drug manufacturing company revealed in a recent study that some of the drugs given a shelf life of five years expired after four months, due to storage conditions and other elements that cause instability in the drug's ingredients, and result in its decomposition and disintegration. The expert's research, published at a University of Jordan conference in March last year, showed that the same drugs were valid for one year in low temperatures.

The Ministry of Health's Pharmacists and Drug Control Director General, Hussam Eddin Musmar, told the Jordan Times that importers could also reduce the stability of drugs, and that before licensing the importation of a drug, samples of the drug undergo tests supervised by the ministry's nine-member committee, before a green light to import is given.

However, the drug agent does not have to go through the technical committee to withdraw the drug.

The laboratory chief, who refused to comment on her lawsuit, was removed from her post at the ministry and transferred to a government hospital as a member of the laboratory staff there. She filed a lawsuit against the ministry, saying that her removal from her post was an arbitrary action that was a direct result of her attempts to stop irregularities related to the licensing and importation of drugs imported by drug agents.

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Some of these displayed drugs have no manufacturing or expiry dates

(File photo)

agent brings him good medicine, he will be selling good medicine, if he brings bad medicine, he will sell bad medicine, often unknowingly."

Hamzeh, who is in charge of the association's information committee and holds a masters in health services and hospital management from the University of Jordan, urged the ministry to take firm action against drug agents, who he said were sometimes acting in an irresponsible manner.

Drug agents interviewed by the Jordan Times admitted that other drug agents were guilty of "only thinking about profits," but added that many pharmacies were also responsible. They claim that some old pharmacies, where turnover was low, did not pay sufficient attention to expired medicines.

On the question of prices, Hamzeh said pharmacists raise prices in proportion to the amount raised by the drug agent when he sells the drugs. He said that several price changes that have occurred were made by drug agents, with the rationale that the value of European currencies was going up.

"Prices do not seem to go down, only up," he said, adding that drug agents were changing prices on old stock, and not new shipments with higher prices.

Hamzeh hinted that the ministry may be lax in its dealings with the very powerful drug agents in the Kingdom.

Asked about the structure of the ministry's Technical Committee controlling the imports of drugs into the country, the minister said he did not see a conflict of interest in the fact that four of the nine-member committee had personal interests in certain medicines. Three of the members are drug agents and a fourth is married to a drug agent.

Commenting on some suggestions that the structure of the committee may influence its decisions, Hamzeh said: "It is a matter of opinion, I disagree."

The Technical Committee was established by a law issued in 1972, long before there was a drug quality control laboratory established at the ministry.

The basic laws governing the duties of the Technical Committee did not change since, despite the fact that the ministry's laboratory began operating in 1981 with its own drug regulatory system.

This system stipulated in one of its earliest regulations in 1981 that all medicines should carry manufacturing and expiry dates.</p

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Caring for the one family

THE revelation that some medicines, which do not carry manufacturing or expiry dates, or have expired, are sold in our pharmacies is cause for concern, and should serve as an added reason for the creation of some sort of consumer protection agency in Jordan.

Surely, the findings about the sale of expired medicine in Jordan is not the first of its kind, or the last. There are other goods on Jordanian sales shelves which call for closer scrutiny by an independent agency, in order to protect Jordanian consumers from greedy merchants, insensitive importers or law officialdom. The quality of our commodities, whether manufactured domestically or imported from foreign markets, obviously requires more watchful eyes. Also, the pricing of goods needs closer scrutiny, in view of the outrageously high prices that Jordanians often have to pay. In many cases, foreign items enjoy a monopoly in our domestic market because there are simply no viable substitutes, and therefore we are obliged to buy them no matter how unreasonable their prices are. It is absurd, for example, to buy a children's book in our book stores for more than two dinars, when the same book has a retail price of around 500 fils in its home market.

If by this newspaper's random survey we detect a flaw in the sale of medicines in our country, whether in quality or price, surely there are other commodities in our shops that await scrutiny and regulation. An independent agency for consumer protection, composed of experienced and qualified people with the highest standards of morality, may be an answer.

We have pursued this story of the unlabelled and outdated medicines as an example of the loopholes that exist in this and all societies, and not because we wish to attack the Health Ministry, the drug importers, the individual pharmacies or the Pharmacists' Association. The point is that the system in place in Jordan today allows some — not many, but some — expired drugs to be sold to consumers who are being subjected to a cruel deception, whether intended or not, and perhaps even to health risks. Instead of the parties passing the blame on to another party, we would think that it is more in keeping with our national character and our system of public authority to bring together the concerned parties in order to work together to plug those loopholes that do exist. For this, in the end, is the real meaning and value of being part of the Jordanian family.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Hot questions for OIC

THE foreign ministers of the Islamic countries are due to open their meeting in Amman Monday when they will discuss hot questions and issues of concern to the Muslim world. Perhaps the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the Gulf war will be on top of the ministers' agenda because of their seriousness and the dangers they entail. There might be differences in views among the participants of these two questions, but what is certain is their agreement on supporting the people who are confronting the Israelis and their oppression. In the Palestine question the Islamic countries at large will be lending full backing to the Palestinian people's right to resist occupation, but in the Gulf war the delegates will be faced with the question of reconciling Iraq and Iran, two neighbouring Islamic states locked in battle and bloodshed. We therefore believe that the participants' deliberations over the uprising will be completely different from the Gulf conflict. The uprising should attract material and moral support from all Islamic states to the Palestinian people, while the Gulf war should be dealt with in a manner that can guarantee the dignity of both sides and an end to bloodshed and a total peace which has already been accepted by Iraq alone. The Islamic nations' failure in the past to bring peace between Iraq and Iran should not be cause for desperation, nor should it prompt the two sides to escalate their fighting. Indeed, U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 should form the basis of any peaceful solution that can safeguard the national interests of the two sides.

Al Dustour: Israel escalates repression

FOLLOWING Israel's failure to stifle the Palestinian uprising by breaking the bones of youth and murdering innocent civilians, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that his government would impose a siege on Arab civilians and starve the Arab people as a collective punishment designed to end the revolt. Rabin whose troops possess all means of imposing terror and oppression is thus declaring that Israel will be adopting a form of repression far exceeding the worst and the most terrible actions ever adopted by foreign invaders of any country around the world. All this, while the civilised world is looking on and watching the crimes being committed day and night against the civilians without lifting a finger or taking effective actions to stop the atrocities. Perhaps Israel's current measures against the foreign journalists and information media mark the beginning of Rabin's new measures, as they are designed to prevent the outside world from knowing about the reality inside the occupied lands. But we are confident that these barbaric and neo-Nazi measures will not succeed in deterring the Palestinian people from pursuing their struggle for freedom. The steadfast people seem today more determined than ever to win their rights and their freedom again; and Rabin's measures will never stop the resistance which seeks justice.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rallying Arabs

KING Hussein has held successful talks with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and North Yemen on issues of common concern to the Arab World. The talks helped to corroborate the resolutions of the Amman Arab summit meeting held last November and further bolstered Jordan's links with the two countries. The King's tour was aimed at consolidating Arab countries' stands and boosting their current diplomatic efforts at all levels to serve Arab just causes. The talks in Riyadh and Sanaa centred on Arab affairs and means of reaching a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference. The King is keen on maintaining the momentum of diplomatic efforts towards a settlement and this keenness emanates from the Kingdom's concern over the Palestinian people and their rights. The King's moves are also motivated by the current Arab uprising in the Palestinian lands in the face of Israel's oppression. The King is keen on rallying the Arabs in the face of the Israeli challenge and for the sake of ending occupation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Consequences of bonds secondary market

THE government started to issue bonds and treasury bills two decades ago. Since then a secondary market existed by never developed. Bond owners were always able to liquidate their portfolios at their face value, because the Central Bank stood ready to buy any issue at the fixed price, irrespective of the rate of coupon, term of maturity, accumulated interest, etc.

For some time the Central Bank intervention was justified because it attracted investors to this new instrument and spurred their confidence in the government's paper.

But that practice has outlived its usefulness. In fact it prevented the development of the secondary market in the proper sense. Thus the market was prevented from generating signals about the proper level of interest rate yield as influenced by supply and demand.

Things are changing now. The Central Bank says that it wants to see an active secondary market for government paper, and to leave it to the interaction of supply and demand in a free market.

Although the Central Bank issued a circular on Jan. 25, 1983 to establish such secondary market, all that was needed is to leave the market alone, and allow various issues to be traded at various prices as buyers and sellers may agree.

However, the habit of intervention in price fixing has not disappeared. The Central Bank could not trust the market, and started unnecessarily to issue a daily yield rate for all maturities, saying that it is only an indicator to guide traders of bonds.

This is not exactly harmful, because it is not binding. Buyers and sellers may agree on any yield they think fit.

Of course the Central Bank should be interested in influencing the prices of bonds, not through a daily predetermined yield rate, but through actual buying and selling in the market. This will not only influence yields but banking liquidity as well, and thus serves as an effective monetary instrument, available to the Central Bank for the implementation of its monetary policy, when has one.

So far, the market is a sellers market. All banks want to buy but

none wants to sell. The reason is very clear: The bonds were issued at very generous terms: 8 to 8.5 per cent interest, tax exempt, which means over 14 to 15 per cent taxable interest. Why should banks finance businessmen and take the credit risk at nine per cent, if the risk-free bonds can give them much more?

However, the secondary market, if left alone would expose the irony. If the Treasury was ready to play the role of dump borrower, the present owners of its bonds will seek the proper price. It was no surprise to see bonds trading at six per cent above their nominal value. Banks are now competing to buy government papers at an effective maturity yield of five to six per cent, because, unlike the Treasury officials, they understand the real cost of tax.

So far the secondary market of bonds is shallow. The price of bonds is still too low to convince institutional investors to sell, and the habit of trading bonds at face value is preventing prices from rising to their proper level. But this will eventually happen.

When the secondary market becomes active and produces flexible prices, the Jordanian economy will benefit tremendously. It will not be itself from one of its major rigidities. Interest rates will become flexible to reflect market forces. Contrary to unfounded fears, it will not shoot up to extremely high levels that may hinder investments, nor will it drop down to very low levels which may affect savings. It will simply find the proper level which will guarantee the balance between supply and demand.

For some reason, policy makers and economic analysts in Jordan are both scared to death from the possible consequences of equilibrium between supply and demand, not only interest rates but also in every other price.

We trust that the secondary market will show once more that the sky will not fall if people dealt with each other in a free market, as long as the Central Bank is watching and ready to buy and sell, guided by a clear policy and purpose.

Islam makes entry into Philippine politics

In the Muslim southern Philippines Islamic fundamentalists have made a controversial entry into party politics by winning office in local elections. Richard Gourlay assesses the strength and nature of the Islamic revival.

MANILA — In a remote Muslim corner of the southern Philippines, teachers of Islam have made a controversial foray into party politics by winning office in the recent local elections.

For Dr. Mutilan, however, Marawi City's lack of telephones, street lighting, and drinking water, its potholed roads and neglected schools are testimony to the corruption of the traditional politicians he has now started to unseat. "We are almost in a medieval age," he says. "We are a place forgotten by time."

Only participation in politics by the imams could remove the corrupt politicians who buy votes — up to \$50 a vote at the January polls — and then recoup the cost, and much more, from public funds when in office, Dr. Mutilan says.

Although he holds a degree from Al Azhar Islamic University in Cairo, Dr. Mutilan plays down any Islamic fundamentalist ambitions and says he does not want to introduce Sharia law. His idea is to run an administration "influenced" by Islamic law while respecting the Philippines constitution. "We are trying to reform the exercise of politics here," he said.

Apart from bringing a whiff of integrity to an area kept on its knees by morally bankrupt officials, he is also likely to be a strong advocate for the Muslims. At 7 per cent of the population,

they make up the country's largest and most turbulent minority.

For the moment, Dr. Mutilan has carefully distanced himself from the three rebel groups which have been at the forefront of the Muslim insurgency since about 50,000 people died in the early 1970s at the height of the fighting.

A shaky ceasefire has largely been observed since January 1987. A committee made up of Muslims and Christians is drafting legislation for autonomy in Muslim Mindanao that is called for in the new constitution.

However, the largest rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, is growing increasingly edgy. A referendum, required by the constitution, will probably only approve autonomy for the six provinces where there is a Muslim majority. This is a far cry from the 20 provinces initially described as the "Moro homelands," or the 13 provinces that former President Ferdinand Marcos agreed to make autonomous.

With the Muslim insurgency rumbling like a semi-dormant volcano in the background, the election of a mayor who actually sounds as if he might do something for his constituents takes on a greater significance.

The Muslims could never prosper while local politicians had their fingers in the till in collusion with Manila. For this Dr. Mutilan and many others blame Sultan Ali Dimaporo, a loyal Marcos henchman and the appointed governor of Lanao del Sur for ten

years.

Dimaporo denies these charges, saying the funds were pilfered before they got to Marawi. But Dr. Mutilan maintains that if this is true, it could only have happened if Dimaporo was in league with officials in Manila. Most of them did not audit payments and were not prompted to do so by Marcos's local henchmen.

Dr. Mutilan is unlikely to give Manila such a smooth ride. The anti-corruption drive that made him mayor in a forgotten town of 80,000 people is inspired by concern for the four million Muslim Filipinos, whose demands he says continue to be ignored in Manila. His zeal is backed up by an implied threat.

"If we cannot get our political rights by political struggle then what can we do?" Dr. Mutilan says when asked if he supports the MNLF's fight. "Now we are experimenting with political struggle" — Financial Times feature.

Leftist exiles and other refugees from Beirut and the south have fled to Rmeileh, following a campaign of assassinations against Communists, pro-Iraqi Baath Socialists and other leftists by Shi'ite fundamentalists spreading Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's stern brand of Islam and other Shi'ite factions.

One of the first things that shows the traveler that Rmeileh is different from just about everywhere else in South Lebanon is alcohol. It's sold openly at the side of the road.

Alcohol is banned in most of the region, which is dominated by Shi'ite factions, and in Beirut's southern slums, the Shi'ite stronghold in the capital.

Islamic religious laws banning mixed parties and mixed bathing, even women wearing swimming costumes, the consumption of pork and other strict moral codes are strictly enforced in Shi'ite areas.

But in the summer, Rmeileh's eight restaurants and five kilometres of Mediterranean beaches and hillsides picnic areas are packed with people having a good time.

Hamza, 35, who comes from the staunchly Shi'ite town of Nabatiyeh in the south, said: "We can't buy drinks in Nabatiyeh any more, so we come to Rmeileh. In summer women have to come here to swim because it's the one of the very few places they can do that."

Because he lives in a Shi'ite area, where such activities are forbidden, Hamza declined to disclose his family name.

Until 1985, when Muslim forces overran the coastal plain, Rmeileh was a mainly Christian town of about 5,000 Maronite Catholics. Now there are only 60 Maronite families left.

Rmeileh is protected by Communist Party militiamen, most of them Christians, who are allied to neighbouring Druze and Sunni Muslim forces who helps keep the fibres out.

The Syrian army also has a checkpoint just south of Rmeileh on the Awali River, which also acts as a deterrent to Shi'ite gunmen.

Aba Rim, a leftist official in the town, said 500 refugee families — Muslims, Christians and Palestinians — live in Rmeileh with the local Christians.

"Our aim is to get rid of the sectarian atmosphere and implement co-existence," he said.

Elias Tabet, director of the

OPEN FORUM

Is there another physician in town?

AMERICAN Secretary of State George Shultz, late last month, shuttled between concerned capitals of the Middle East. He discussed with the leaders of these states his formula that constituted, in his opinion, a workable starting point for the much talked about peace process.

It is important to note the diversified reactions by the various parties to the Shultz formula. One essential reaction was the general Arab scepticism with which the renewed American move was received. To most Arabs Shultz cannot and would not take such an initiative without having Israeli interests at the top of his priorities.

Still it is interesting to see that Shultz mission took place despite and against what could be dictated by conventional wisdom.

Back in 1983, when George Shultz's personal image and career were badly hurt because of the abortion of the May 17, 1983 agreement, signed under his auspices, between Israel and the government of Lebanon, the secretary of state maintained an absolute "benign neglect" attitude towards everything related to the Arab-Israel conflict. The latest Shultz tour in the Middle East broke that line.

Also, many people think that any American administration, during the seasonal presidential campaign, whether it administers was returning for office or simply packing, avoids involvement in thorny issues such as the Middle East problem. Once again Shultz had a surprise for those people.

But the question remains: Is this a genuine sincere American interest in putting an end to the Arab-Israel conflict, or is it a mere natural reaction to the dramatic uprising that gripped Israel in the occupied Arab territories? Or did this initiative come in line with the long standing American policy of damage-control?

May be it is premature to jump to conclusions at this juncture. May be it is wiser if everyone concerned listened to Shultz. If the Arabs, for instance, displayed a receptive ear to the "new" American ideas, the ball will fly back to the adversary's court. Most probably, the clearly split Israeli team would have a hard time in hitting back coherently. In earnest one might ask as well, do the Arabs need to seek Shultz's satisfaction for their receptiveness? Not necessarily. But Arab reaction would be monitored by the public opinion in the U.S. and all over the world. A good example was the letter signed by 30 prominent senators addressed directly to the secretary of state, and indirectly to the intransigent attitude of some factions in Israel, represented, in this case, by the person of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir.

No one can predict how this hard-ball game between the State Department and the Shamir faction of the Israeli government will end, even after Shamir ends his visit to Washington. It is worth watching. Meanwhile for those well-intentioned friends who are, with good reason, not impressed with Shultz's practice, I say there is another physician in town?

Salim Ayoub

Lebanese town is haven for leftists

By Hasan Mroue
The Associated Press

town's government school, said that ethnic mix gives Rmeileh a non-sectarian nature, where people from different areas and religions "feel safe and free."

Samih Germanos, 57, a Christian who fled Beirut's Shi'ite-controlled southern slums, said: "We're very happy and hope things will stay this way."

Rmeileh's acting mayor, Haim Kleib, said: "The tourist influx last summer was even better than it was in pre-war times."

"People in the south prefer Rmeileh to other places because it's the closest resort to them which provides restaurants and private beaches as well as drinks," Kleib added.

Ali Hujeir, 40, a father of nine who works at a Pepsi Cola plant in a nearby town, said: "I sell alcohol on the street as my second job. Most of the people who come here to buy alcohol are from the south."

"I'm the only one to sell pork meat in this area. I started bringing it from Mount Lebanon last week and in four days, I sold around 40 kilogrammes," said Abu Elie, 32, who opened a small snack shop on the main coastal highway last year.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal Movement has been blamed for many of the assassinations of leftists in South Lebanon. Amal calls the people who fled "self-deportees."

Since many are skilled or professional people, including doctors and teachers, Amal recently asked them to return to their villages.

The extremist Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, is also thought to be responsible for some of the killings.

Hikmat Al Amri, a Communist doctor from Kfar-Rumman, near Nabatiyeh, said his Swiss wife and children had to join him in exile because they had been harassed by gunmen since he fled a year ago.

Wafiq Rihan, a Shi'ite who

African countries step up bid for international debt dialogue

NAIROBI (R) — African nations are stepping up efforts to stage an international conference on their crippling foreign debt despite a cool response from creditors.

Finance and foreign ministers from 12 African nations are to meet in Zambia Monday in a fresh bid for a breakthrough in the three-year-old initiative.

The aim is apparently to introduce some collective bargaining to loan talks, under which debtor countries currently negotiate individually with donors such as the Paris Club of official creditors.

"If you go to Paris (now) then you are going in the capacity of an unaccompanied debtor to stand trial before a council of creditors... like a client unaccompanied by a lawyer," complained Zambia's Finance Minister Gibson Chigaga last month.

The two-day talks follow a special summit of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU) last December on the \$200 billion debt of the world's poorest continent.

This represents a more than fifteen-fold rise since 1970, when it was only \$13 billion in the red, Chigaga noted.

According to the Addis Ababa-based U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, African countries now spend on average some 40 per cent of their export earnings

on servicing the debt.

The cost is crippling for a continent trying to breathe life into stagnant economies, exhausted by rapid population growth and a slump in world prices for oil, farm and metal exports, and facing civil strife and growing ranks of refugees and the hungry.

Africa's official and commercial creditors, mainly Western, have shown little enthusiasm for an international debt conference since it was first proposed in 1985.

They apparently prefer to deal with each country separately, if only to avoid setting a precedent that could be exploited by Latin American big debtors.

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said two weeks ago there was no magic formula to the global debt crisis, and urged a continued case-by-case strategy.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who is at the forefront of efforts to find new ways to solve the dilemma, said last month the adaptability of the case-by-case approach should not be underestimated.

At the Lusaka talks will be

ministers from Africa's top debtors — Nigeria and Egypt — and Algeria, Congo, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia.

The last seven are among what the World Bank calls the 22 most "debt distressed" of the 40 odd countries south of the Sahara.

Next week's talks follow action by both official and commercial creditors to relax terms on Africa's debt and new initiatives by the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank.

These are expected to open taps to \$3 billion a year in fresh aid for sub-Saharan Africa alone.

But at least \$2 billion more is needed annually to meet the region's needs, said a special panel set up by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar last April to study Africa's economic woes.

The Lusaka meeting is expected to shape a draft agenda, and suggest a date for the proposed international debt conference.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, as current OAU chairman, then hopes to tour Europe before May to woo creditors' support.

He will be hoping for a better response than shown by African heads of state at the OAU's own debt crisis summit in December, when only nine leaders attended. The rest sent envoys.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The start of the week was a disappointing day as only a total of 218,226 shares were traded for a volume of JD 269,219 spread over 269 contracts.

Although shares of 46 companies were traded Saturday only two companies figured prominently, namely: The Jordan Cement Factories Company (48,301 shares for JD 52,119 covered by 43 deals) and the Jordan Sulpho Chemical (19,388 shares for JD 53,912 covered by 20 transactions).

Trading in the Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries shares amounted to 47,800 shares but the volume stood only at JD 11,472 spread over 25 contracts. Universal Insurance ranked in fourth place at 15,000 shares with all the rest of the companies falling under the level of 8,000 shares.

As to volume, Jordan Paper and Cardboard Company ranked third for a total of JD 21,497 followed by Cairo Amman Bank for JD 13,080.

Trading at the parallel market amounted to 37,700 shares for a total of JD 28,162.

Jordan Cement Factories improves financial image

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) last year repaid all its overdue debts and loan instalments with interests and realised a net profit of JD 8 million which accounts for 16 per cent of the capital, according to JCFC Director-General Khalid Al Thaher.

He said that this successful performance enables the company to distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of eight per cent and to transfer JD 2.75 million to the reserve accounts.

In 1985, he said, the JCFC borrowed JD 2.75 million to distribute dividends to the shareholders because during that year the company sustained a loss of JD 622,202 and had to distribute dividends at the rate of six per cent only.

In 1986, the company distributed a similar percentage but was able to make up for the 1985 losses and to pay back JD 143,615 taken from the company's reserves.

In general, Thaher said, JCFC repaid \$64 million of foreign debts and JD 19 million of local loans in addition to interests during the past year.

According to the JCFC director-general, the company now sells cement to a number of Arab countries. A Jordanian-Egyptian agreement provides for the sale of 750,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt, but this will be increased by 20 per cent under a new amendment to be signed by the end of this month, Thaher noted.

He added that North Yemen will buy 200,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement under a contract



Khalid Al Thaher

with JCFC and Iraq and Sudan are buying unspecified quantities in accordance with their needs.

Thaher noted that the company was facing transport problems specially between the Rashadieh mines and Aqaba due to insufficient lorries specially made for such operations. He also complained of fines which the company pays now and then for loading delays at Aqaba.

At present, he said, 3,000 tonnes are being transported from Rashadieh to Aqaba on a daily basis.

Thaher proposed the establishment of a special silo at Aqaba where cement can be stored until vessels are ready to take them from the port, and so avoid paying fines on delays at Aqaba harbour.

Thaher also outlined different measures being taken by JCFC to reduce pollution, resulting from cement dust, over the city of Fuheis and other residential areas around the mines in other parts of the country.

Financial training course opens

AMMAN (Petra) — An advanced training course on financial controls and organisation of work at warehouses opened at Amoun Hotel in Amman Saturday.

Jordan Audit Bureau President Hashem Dabbas addressed the



Hashem Dabbas

opening session saying that the course is linked to development projects being implemented by the government.

Dabbas outlined the role which financial controls can play in the process of purchases of equipment and materials and the importance of maintaining controls and organising warehouses.

During the two-week course, the participants will hear lectures designed to raise their efficiency and improve their skills in managing warehouses and controlling financial matters related to procurement and purchases.

Delegates from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, North Yemen, Oman, Sudan, Algeria and Saudi Arabia are taking part in the course.

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 12, '88 and ending Tuesday, March 15, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	50	67	1.340	1.340	1.000
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2140	3766	1.760	1.760	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2120	3371	1.590	1.590	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	1572	1896	1.200	1.200	1.000
Housing Bank	5850	9260	1.600	1.600	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1027	30810	30.000	30.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	522	8474	16.320	16.200	5.000
Arab Bank	920	104862	114.250	113.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	3398	8300	2.450	2.450	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	6000	8140	1.850	1.870	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	10713	6351	0.590	0.580	1.000
National Financial Investments	217500	424381	1.850	1.850	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	2623	2197	0.850	0.850	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al Mashreq Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	4857	26916	5.600	5.470	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	2410	2258	0.920	0.940	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	203	197	0.960	0.970	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	5223	6879	1.310	1.300	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	625	450	0.730	0.720	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al-Idha Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	1150	1452	1.260	1.260	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	2000	2660	1.340	1.330	1.000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	14642	6589	0.460	0.450	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	2433	1022	0.430	0.420	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	9150	3020	0.340	0.330	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	4596	3562	0.720	0.770	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	61463	11369	0.690	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	8750	2807	0.840	0.820	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	3177	4670	1.470	1.470	1.000
Irid District Electricity	500	480	0.960	0.960	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	5800	5030	0.870	0.850	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press, Printing and Publishing	8495	3456	0.410	0.400	1.000
Jordan Dairy	10519	10832	1.030	1.020	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	4554	9563	2.100	2.100	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	145150	215942	1.540</td		

Sports

Sulayem wins Kuwait International Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a final four days, as the results of the Kuwait International Rally were confirmed Saturday night, Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Ronan Morgan, driving the Marboro/BP sponsored Toyota Celica Turbo were declared winners after a protest, entered by Toyota team Middle East manager, Terry Plant, was upheld by the organizers.

The story behind the drama went back to time control 16 during Saturday's stages when Saed Al Hajri's Audi Quattro entered the time control one minute early, thereby incurring the mandatory "two-minute" penalty under section 17B of the regulations.

Until then, Al Hajri had been leading, and had indeed been declared the provisional winner having spent the day taking advantage of the Quattro's exceptional grip in the slippery dust of the stages. Bin Sulayem, driving flat-out all day just could not get the greater power of the Toyota to convert into sufficient traction to increase his 18 second lead of Thursday night, and had to watch

helplessly as Al Hajri ate up the seconds, widening the gap to give him a 7-second lead by the end of the day.

Nonetheless, a win is a win, and Sulayem is now set to push just as hard in the next event, in Jordan.

Meanwhile, away from other two main protagonists, further down the field, both Michel Saleh (Audi) and Abbas Al Mousawi (Talbot) had strokes of bad luck when they went out on stages 8 and 10, Saleh with a blown engine, and Al Mousawi with a repetition of his unfortunate departure from the Qatar event, when a front suspension strut broke.

The story behind the drama went back to time control 16 during Saturday's stages when Saed Al Hajri's Audi Quattro entered the time control one minute early, thereby incurring the mandatory "two-minute" penalty under section 17B of the regulations.

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Official result
1. Mohammed Bin Sulayem Ronan Morgan Toyota Celica 1:54.37
2. Saed Al Hajri Steve Bond Audi Quattro 1:55.21
3. Sultan Al Suwaidi/Dave Orwick Toyota Celica 2:19.25
4. Josef Miskulin/Klaus Schwingensloegi Nissan 240RS 2:19.52
5. Faz Chihab/Hanna Chihab Mitsubishi 2:30.04
6. Ahmad Al Nasser/Bader Al Zaidi Mitsubishi 2:44.44

'Fast Freddie' Spencer retires

SHREVEPORT (R) — Three-time world motorcycling racing champion Freddie Spencer announced Wednesday his retirement from the sport.

"I've been racing hard for the better part of 20 years," the American rider known worldwide as "Fast Freddie" said, in making his surprise announcement. "It's time I gave my body a rest."

Spencer said he made his retirement decision before next week's season opener in Suzuka, Japan, after suffering severe tendinitis in his right wrist during recent machine testing in Au-

stralia.

Spencer underwent wrist surgery in 1986 and was sidelined for the season. But despite the surgery he developed tendinitis in the wrist and the recurring problems from it led him to retire.

"After the HRC (Honda Racing Corp) training programme in California this winter, I felt fit and was eager for the season to begin. But I expect a certain level of performance from myself, with the only objective being to win the world title," he said.

Jordan nests 9 medals

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — Jordanian athletes won nine medals in the ninth Arab Cross Country Tournament held in Syria Friday. Jordanian women participants displayed their strength brilliantly by snatching six medals — four gold, one silver and one bronze.

The male participants contributed their share too, by winning two silver medals and one bronze medal.

In a target shooting tournament held in Cairo, Egypt Friday, Jordan won the gold and bronze medals.

Volleyball tournament begins

AJLOUN (Petra) — A two-day volleyball tournament for female students in public and private community colleges in Jordan opened here Saturday.

The first day's games (best of three), Huwwara Community College beat Al Andalus College and the Amman Training College beat Cordoba.

Iraq beats Bahrain in Gulf Soccer Cup

RIYADH (R) — Iraq won the Gulf Soccer Cup Friday with a 1-0 victory over Bahrain.

Experienced Iraq made its way to the top unbeaten in six games with 10 points in the seven-team Round Robin Championship.

It was the third time the Iraqis had won the cup since the competition started in 1970.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) finished in second place with eight points and hosts Saudi Arabia third with seven.

Laith Hussein scored the winning goal for Iraq, calmly pushing in a cross from forward Karim Allawi in the 49th minute.



Steffi Graf



Yannick Noah

Graf struggles while Noah steals the show

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R)

Top-seeded Steffi Graf struggled in the first set before beating South African Roslyn Fairbank 7-6 (7-0), 6-0 Friday, but the charismatic Frenchman Yannick Noah was the focus of attention in the third round of the \$2.1 million International Players Championships.

The sixth-seeded Noah displayed his usual acrobatic, brilliant tennis in his win over No. 27 seed Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, 6-2.

Eight seeds fell in both men's and women's singles.

Argentine Martin Jaite was upset by No. 26 seed Ramesh Krishnan of India 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, and American Zina Garrison was surprised by South African Elna Reinach, the world 75, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Graf, the world's number one, had problems with her normally devastating groundstrokes as Fairbank repeatedly won points on unforced errors by Graf.

However, by the end of the tiebreaker, which Graf won 7-0, the 18-year-old West German had found her rhythm and taken control of the match.

Noah, world 11, started slowly and was pushed to a tiebreak in the first set, which had no breaks of serve, but lifted his game in the second and third sets to eliminate Smid.

Noah controlled the last two sets so soundly that he began hitting trick shots to entertain the crowd.

Noah dropped only one point on his serve in third set, when he was up 40-0 in the final game and double-faulted.

"I'm getting nervous," he joked, and then closed out the match on the next point with an athletic forehand volley.

Others advancing to the fourth round included fourth seeded American Tim Mayotte, third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and Briton Jo Durie, who edged American Gretchen Mager 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in an aggressive played contest.

Andre Agassi was another seed to fall by the wayside. The ninth-seeded American was forced to retire during the fifth set of his third-round match against compatriot Aaron Krickstein. Krickstein won 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 1-0.

Bernhard Gstrein of Austria, who led after the first run, missed a gate early in the windup run and was disqualified. Gstrein is the only skier who has beaten Tomba in the slalom this year, at Lienz,

Tomba clinches blue ribbon in World Cup slalom race

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Steady Alberto Tomba of Italy came from fifth after the first run to win a World Cup slalom race Saturday, 0.22 seconds ahead of American sensation Felix McGrath.

overall.

Tomba, the Olympic champion, turned in the fastest time down the 62-gate second run in 51.51. He had a 49.90 in the opening 57-gate first run for a combined time of 1 minute, 41.41 seconds.

It was Tomba's fifth victory of the season in the slalom — an event in which he has already clinched the cup title — and eighth overall.

McGrath, who had runs of 49.86 and 51.77 for 1:41.63, called it his "best race ever." He had been in fourth place after the morning run.

Gunter Mader of Austria finished third in 1:41.66 and Frank Worni of West Germany, the 1987 world champion and a silver medalist behind Tomba in the Olympics, took fourth in 1:42.43.

Ingmar Stenmark, the winningest slalom and giant slalom racer in history, was second after the first run but didn't ski as well in the second and fell to fifth in 1:42.64.

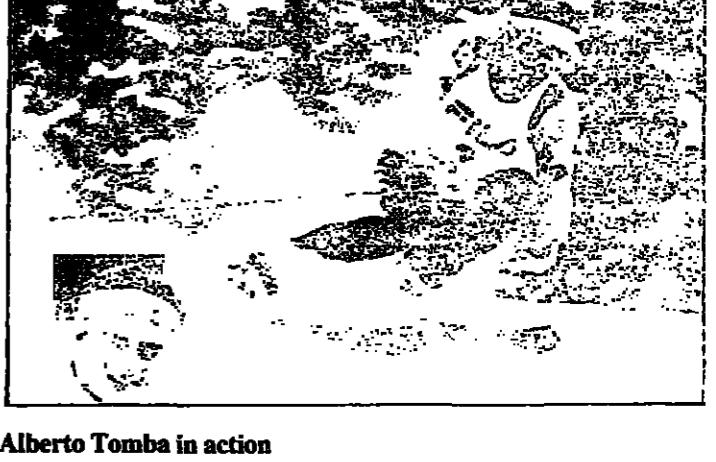
Bernhard Gstrein of Austria, who led after the first run, missed a gate early in the windup run and was disqualified. Gstrein is the only skier who has beaten Tomba in the slalom this year, at Lienz,

Austria, last January.

Tomba's victory, the first ever by an Italian in a Swedish World Cup meet, moved him to first place in the World Cup standings with 249 points.

Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, the defending overall champion, will also be at stake this weekend, the second and last such "paper event" of the season.

Rounding out the top 10 were Jorgen Sundqvist of Sweden, sixth in 1:42.98, followed by Graeme Benedik of Yugoslavia, 1:43.11; Hubert Strolz of Austria, 1:43.20; Peter Roth of West Germany, 1:43.24; and Michael Tritschler of Austria, 1:43.26.



Alberto Tomba in action

Forest-United end in goalless draw

LONDON (R) — Nottingham Forest's first capacity crowd of the season had to settle for a disappointing goalless draw against Manchester United in the English First Division Saturday.

With leaders Liverpool not playing until Sunday, against Everton, there was a chance for second-placed United and Forest who are fourth, to make the gap between them and the top a trifle more respectable.

Noah, world 11, started slowly and was pushed to a tiebreak in the first set, which had no breaks of serve, but lifted his game in the second and third sets to eliminate Smid.

Noah controlled the last two sets so soundly that he began hitting trick shots to entertain the crowd.

86th minute but Dean Saunders notched his second with two minutes left to make the final score a breathless 4-4.

Liverpool are now 14 points clear of Manchester United with three games in hand, and a firm of London bookmakers which stands to lose one million pounds sterling (\$1.82 million) if they stay unbeaten until the end of the season must be praying hard.

But United clearly missed England captain Bryan Robson, ruled out of the match shortly before the kickoff with flu, and Forest lacked the verve to pierce the defense and satisfy their faithful among the 35,000 crowd.

Fifth-placed Arsenal also dropped points after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Newcastle United.

Paul Gascoigne missed an eighth minute penalty for Newcastle and Perry Groves gave the Londoners the lead after 29 minutes. The visitors' equaliser came through Paul Goddard 14 minutes from time.

The day's action was bound to be overshadowed by Liverpool's bid Sunday to beat Leeds United's record in the 1973-74 season of remaining unbeaten for the opening 29 games.

But there was plenty of drama at lowly Oxford where Chelsea took a 3-0 halftime lead only to be pegged back to 3-3 with 15 minutes left.

Kerry Dixon hit his second to make it 4-3 for Chelsea in the

86th minute but Dean Saunders notched his second with two minutes left to make the final score a breathless 4-4.

Liverpool are now 14 points clear of Manchester United with three games in hand, and a firm of London bookmakers which stands to lose one million pounds sterling (\$1.82 million) if they stay unbeaten until the end of the season must be praying hard.

Further down the division, there was trouble at Wimbledon where fullback Clive Goodyear's dream faded in agony after a mistimed tackle by Tottenham striker Clive Allen.

United won 3-0 but it could not dampen their anger over the 35th minute incident.

Allen went in recklessly, studs showing, to send Goodyear to hospital with a suspected broken right leg and no hope of playing again. Luton in next month's semifinal.

Allen escaped even a caution for the tackle, but Vinny Jones was not so lucky three minutes later when he scythed down the Tottenham man.

Jones exacted a more respectable retribution in the 62nd minute, stealing in at the far post to meet Alan Cork's flick with a thunderous volley. John Fashanu and Dennis Wise were the other Wimbledon marksmen.

West Ham, who have sunk dangerously near the relegation zone, eased their problems a little

with a 1-0 home win over bottom club Watford.

The deciding goal came from new boy Leroi Senor, bought 24 hours earlier from Third Division Fulham for £275,000 (\$300,000), and justifying manager John Lyall's faith in the best possible way.

English and Scottish football league standings

LONDON (R) — English football league table after matches played Saturday:

English Division One

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Liverpool	29	22	7	0	67	13	73
Manchester United	32	16	11	5	48	30	59
Nottingham Forest	29	15	8	6	52	26	53
Everton	30	15	8	7	41	18	53
Arsenal	30	15	7	8	46	28	52
Queen Park Rangers	31	15	7	9	38	32	52
Wimbledon	30	13	9	8	45	32	48
Tottenham	34	11	9	14	34	41	42
Sheffield Wednesday	32	12	4	16	36	53	40
Notwich	32	11	6	15	34	40	39
Coventry	31	10	9	12	37	46	39
Luton	28	11	5	12	40	38	38
Newcastle	30	9	11	10	36	42	38
Southampton	32	9	10	13	38	44	37
West Ham	31	8	12	11	31	40	36
Derby	31	8	10	13	28	34	34
Chelsea	32	8	10	14	42	57	34
Charlton	32	7	10	15	32	47	31
Portsmouth	30	6	12	12	27	47	30
Oxford	30	6	9	15	39	62	27
Watford	30	5	8	17	18	39	23

Peanuts



U.N. mission to probe border clash

Azcona: U.S. troops could be drawn into combat

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. troops sent to show support for Honduras could be drawn into combat if Nicaraguan aggression increases, the Honduran president said, but Nicaragua said its anti-rebel operation had already ended.

A United Nations mission was headed for the tense border area next week after an emergency Security Council session Friday debated Nicaraguan charges that 3,200 U.S. troops were sent to pave the way for military intervention in Nicaragua.

An envoy from Managua called President Reagan's despatch of troops an attempt to create an artificial crisis, but Honduran President Jose Azcona told Spanish radio Nicaraguan forces had taken 60 square kilometres of Honduran territory.

In Washington the troop movements sparked criticism from opponents in Congress who claim soldiers were sent to spur the resumption of U.S. aid to the contra rebels, which was cut off at the end of February.

But conservative Democratic congressmen joined five Republicans Friday in proposing \$48 million in non-lethal aid for the rebels and authority to supply up to \$5 million in undelivered lethal

and non-lethal aid.

Concern over peace talks

The border hostilities caused concern about ceasefire talks due to start between the Nicaraguan government and rebels next Monday in the Nicaraguan town of Sapoa. A contra spokesman said the rebels would attend if government aggression stopped.

Opposition called off

A senior defence ministry source in Managua said Nicaragua called off its offensive against the contras Wednesday after learning of the proposed U.S. troop movement.

Azcona said U.S. troops could be drawn into fighting if Nicaraguan aggression increased, although U.S. officials stressed there were no plans for U.S. soldiers to see combat.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said the "moral support" mission that began Thursday was expected to last about 10 days.



The last of the U.S. forces parachuted into Honduras Friday. The troops will be engaged in military exercises some 100 kilometres from the border zone, U.S. officials said.

A Nicaraguan commander on the border denied Thursday his troops had entered Honduras but said they overran a network of contra supply bases and pushed 1,800 rebels back into Honduras.

Salvador prepares for polls

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador prepared for Sunday's national assembly and municipal elections with a show of strength against leftist rebels opposed to the voting.

Government troops in combat gear patrolled the capital as armoured cars cruised the streets and helicopters clattered overhead constantly Friday.

Despite the deployment of 90 per cent of the 56,000-strong military across the country, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebel army shut down most traffic in the countryside with a threat to attack any vehicle on the road.

Traffic was also severely reduced in San Salvador. Few private buses were running although the government had warned that drivers who did not take out their vehicles risked having their licences suspended.

The rebel threat appeared to be enough to keep cars of the road as only one incident was reported in the city.

Four guerrillas stopped a taxi driven by Erasmo Alfaro Valdez, ordered him out, poured petrol over the car and set it ablaze.

The FMLN's radio Venceremos also warned petrol stations not to open Saturday. On Thursday night, guerrillas machine-gunned a station from passing car, wounding three soldiers standing guard.

Communications Minister Eduardo Colindres said the U.S.-backed government would employ an emergency plan to provide transport for voters to get to polling stations.

"I believe the Salvadorean people will trust in the protection of the armed forces," he said in a statement.

Panama in state of emergency; opposition plans general strike

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Panama's opposition called for a general strike Friday after the government imposed a state of emergency to quell widespread protests aimed at removing military强人 General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Leaders of the opposition National Civic Civil (Cruzada Civilista Nacional) told a news conference the strike would begin Monday and go on indefinitely.

They said it was meant "to demand the substantial political changes the country requires, and which can only come about with Noriega's immediate ousting."

Previous calls for a general strike by the Crusade, a coalition of almost 200 labour, business and social groups, have been unsuccessful in ousting Noriega, who faces drug charges in the United States and growing popular discontent in Panama.

Friday's strike call came only a few hours after President Manuel Solis Palma announced a state of emergency giving the government sweeping powers of arrest and suspending a wide range of civil rights.

'Futile attempt'

Leaders of the largely middle-class Crusade called the emergency decree "a futile attempt to put down the protests of the Panamanian people."

The government said it imposed the emergency to defend itself from "an attack on its economy by the United States of America, in coordination with other national political sectors keen on taking over the government by force."

U.S.-imposed economic sanctions, including the freezing of \$50 million in Panamanian bank deposits in the United States,

have caused a cash crunch in Panama, leaving banks here closed since March 4.

The economic crisis exploded into violence this week as unpaid electrical workers and other government employees took to the streets to demand their wages.

The protests reached their height after an aborted coup attempt against Noriega early Wednesday morning, which was put down by troops loyal to him.

After purging a group of officers within the 16,000-strong Panama Defence Force, which Noriega leads, the army put troops from the U.S.-trained 2,000 battalion on the streets, and militarised most public services.

Although Noriega appeared to be firmly in control, reports from Washington said the beleaguered general was already negotiating with U.S. State Department officials for his departure to a third country, possibly France or Spain.

According to the reports on American television, Noriega hoped to bargain for a promise that he would not be prosecuted or extradited.

'A Panamanian solution'

Crusade leaders told reporters they had received a message from Noriega through a third party, saying he was seeking "a Panamanian solution" to the current crisis. However, they could

not identify who asked for the message.

The official also said that two Panamanian pilots who worked for Noriega have defected to the United States.

Kremlin holds talks with ethnic envoys

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin number two Yegor Ligachev has met workers from a region at the centre of Transcaucasian ethnic unrest as residents stepped up pressure for a decision on their demands.

Ligachev talked Friday to a delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh, the mountainous part of Azerbaijan where the local parliament voted last month for reunification with Armenia, TASS news agency said.

He and other Politburo members also discussed the regional dispute at a meeting with party, scientific and cultural figures in Moscow who are of Azerbaijani and Armenian nationality.

U.S. Customs begins new drug crackdown

WASHINGTON (R) — New "zero tolerance" drug guidelines that allow the arrest of anyone entering the United States with even tiny amounts of illegal drugs go into effect Monday, the U.S. Customs commissioner said Friday.

William Von Raab said that as of Monday all cases will be prosecuted. Passports and other travel documents of suspects will be seized and held as evidence, he said.

The United States has agreed that the station should be used only for peaceful purposes, although space officials have said this does not exclude defence-oriented military experiments.

It is still unclear to what extent experiments connected with the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) will be permitted.

their enthusiasm for the space station project at a ministerial meeting in The Hague last November, with only Britain out of the large industrial countries refusing to participate.

West Germany agreed to pay 38 per cent of the European contribution to the space station project, Italy 25 per cent and France 14 per cent. Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway and Spain are also participating.

Peaceful purposes

Negotiations between Europe and the United States have been marred by disputes over who should have managerial control of the station and whether the U.S. Defence Department should be able to use the facility for military experiments.

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It is still unclear to what extent experiments connected with the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) will be permitted.

controlled substance is a felony under federal law. Heavy court backlog prevented some cases from being prosecuted.

People who bring drugs into the United States are committing a crime, and they need to be punished for that crime, regardless of the amount of drugs involved," Von Raab said. "If people know that they will be arrested for bringing a gram of cocaine into the country, they will think twice."

Under the new guidelines, everyone caught with drugs will be arrested, fingerprinted, booked and formally charged, though crossing the border with a



The Soviet first couple, Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev, meet with young people in Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Moscow pledges non-intervention in other Communist countries

BELGRADE (R) — The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have pledged to respect the right of all Communist parties to choose their own paths.

A joint declaration issued after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev ended a five-day visit Friday also said they had no intention of imposing their systems on anyone.

Analysts said this formally invalidated the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine of limited sovereignty for Communist countries.

The doctrine, named after former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was used as a pretext for the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and had hung since then as a threat over Moscow's East European allies.

"Proceeding from the conviction that no one has a monopoly over the truth, the two sides declare that they have no pretensions of imposing their concepts of social development on anyone," the statement said.

The two countries attached special importance to observing international documents "which prohibit aggression, the violation of frontiers, the conquest of foreign territories, any threat or use of force and any interference in the internal affairs of other states under any pretext whatsoever," it added.

"Communist, Workers', Socialist, Social Democratic, National Liberation and other progressive parties and movements," had the inalienable right to decide independently on their own paths of social development.

"World without arms"

The two countries also called for "a world without arms" saying they believed it was possible to eliminate all nuclear and conventional weapons.

countries are struggling to find a type of socialism suited to the needs of the late 20th and the 21st centuries," one political analyst said.

"The document shows both



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev embraces a young Yugoslav

Colombia recovers bodies of crash victims

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP) — Recovery workers Friday began to remove disfigured bodies of the 137 people who perished when an Avianca jetliner smashed into a mountain, triggered a landslide and burst into flames.

Witnesses said the Boeing 727-100 clipped trees before hitting a snow-covered mountainside Thursday near Zulia, 80 kilometres north of Cucuta.

Cucuta is near the Venezuelan border, 400 kilometres northeast of Bogota.

Colonel Miguel Benedetti, civil defence director for the state of North Santander, said Thursday night that there were no survivors.

The government said it has begun an investigation, but that recovery personnel had not yet located the plane's "black box," which could give investigators some clues as to what caused the crash.

Rain, snow and rough terrain hampered rescue efforts Thursday. But civil aeronautics agency officials said that work crews, some using helicopters, returned to the crash site Friday.

Augusto Bautista, police inspector in nearby Campa Alicia, said pieces of bodies were scattered around the crash area.

"It's not possible to recognise anyone," said Bautista, one of the first people to arrive at the scene after the plane crashed five minutes following takeoff from Cucuta.

Bautista said the only thing recognisable at the crash was an engine.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Socialists willing to talk with De Mita

ROME (AP) — The Socialists Friday told Italian Christian Democrat leader Ciriaco De Mita they were willing to negotiate with him to form a new government, but their final decision will depend on his policy platform. De Mita, 60-year-old secretary of the dominant Christian Democrats, opened consultations with various political leaders Friday on prospects for forming Italy's 48th postwar government. De Mita was appointed prime minister designate by President Francesco Cossiga Wednesday, five days after Christian Democrat Premier Giovanni Goria resigned following a shaky 7½-months at the helm of a five-party coalition.

Fresh avalanches kill 90 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Avalanches killed 90 people in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir Friday, an Indian news agency reported. Six bodies, including those of two children, have been recovered since the disaster in Kargil district near the border with China, the United News of India said. Relief operations are continuing with the help of helicopters. More than 160 people have died in the mountainous state which has been hit by avalanches, landslides and bad weather in recent weeks.

Britain hails Falklands exercise

MOUNT PLEASANT, Falkland Islands (R) — Britain's controversial reinforcement of its Falkland Island garrison, condemned by many Latin American states as an act of aggression, was being hailed as a resounding success by its military planners. General Neil Carter, the exercise commander, told reporters Friday that the airbridge of men and aircraft from British bases 800 kilometres away had shown Britain could respond effectively and rapidly to any threat against these remote south Atlantic islands. "We have proved conclusively that we can do it and that is a tremendous gain," Carter said as the last of the troops reinforcing the garrison landed. The reinforcement was the first since 1982, when Argentina invaded the islands to push its claim of sovereignty and was ousted by British troops in a 10-week war.

'Dalai Lama wants to split China'

PEKING (R) — Chinese President Li Xianian accused the Dalai Lama of wanting to split China, in the highest level criticism of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader since anti-Chinese rioting erupted in Lhasa two weeks ago. "We have respect for the Dalai Lama, but he does not respect China, his motherland. He is actually attempting to split the country up," Li told a visiting Nepalese delegation Saturday. The official New China News Agency quoted Li as saying China would never allow what he called "a small number of trouble-makers in Lhasa and abroad" to dismember China.

COLUMN IN III

HIV-infected not always impaired

GENEVA (AP) — A World Health Organisation (WHO) panel said Friday that people infected with the AIDS virus but not the disease itself do not run an increased risk of brain and nervous system disorders, as do those with the disease. The 48-member panel said in a statement that "there is no evidence" that screening healthy people for the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, would help predict "the onset of functional impairment." The statement noted that some people with the disease AIDS or with AIDS-related-complex have suffered damage to the brain and nervous systems believed caused by the HIV virus.

AIDS in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia Thursday reported its first AIDS cases, saying seven of the 18 people who had contracted the virus had died. The kingdom, which screens all foreign workers for AIDS before allowing them to enter the country, had not previously disclosed any cases. But a health ministry official told a seminar here nine Saudi nationals and nine foreigners had contracted the virus.

Royals get a raise

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II and her family got an average 4.6 per cent raise in last week's annual government budget, hiking to £5,535,700 (\$10,241,000) the annual direct cost of the royal family. The Civil List section of the budget, announced in Parliament by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, goes mostly toward clerical expenses and salaries for people ranging from the Queen's secretaries to Buckingham Palace cleaners. The Queen and nine other royals each got 4 per cent rises. But the allocation for her middle son, Prince Andrew, jumped by 73 per cent from £50,000 (\$92,500) to £86,000 (\$159,100).

Fight for right to cheat

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 100 people were injured when Bangladeshi students armed with rocks and hockey sticks battled police trying to prevent cheating during school final examinations. Police said they fired blank shots and used batons and teargas to disperse hundreds of students who marched out of an examination centre in Western Chittagong district Thursday. The students shouted "We seek the right to copy" and "Allow friends to help us," one police officer said.

Ike Turner found guilty

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ike Turner, who with his former wife Tina had a string of rhythm and blues hits in the 1960s, was convicted Friday of transportation and possession of cocaine. But jurors acquitted Turner, who has admitted a drug dependency problem, of a third count of possession of cocaine for sale. He faces a maximum sentence of five years and eight months in prison on the other charges. "I think it's pretty clear Mr. Turner has a serious problem with cocaine and I'm glad it's finally been recognised by the criminal system," said Deputy District Attorney Lisa Hart. Turner, 55, was arrested in August after police stopped him for driving erratically and found six grammes of rock cocaine in his car.

'Yes, I was dealing'

IMPERIA, Italy (AP) — A 75-year-old retired police chief appeared in court for allegedly selling heroin because